

safety for his party and the American settlers, by overrunning the Mexican Government in California. It was on the 6th day of June that he came to this determination; and, the resolution being taken, all half-way measures were discarded, and a rapid execution of the plan was commenced. On the eleventh of June, a supply of two hundred horses for Castro's troops, on the way to his camp, conducted by an officer and fourteen men, were surprised at daylight, and the whole captured—the men and officers being released, and the horses retained for American use. On the 15th, at daybreak, the military post of Sonoma (the point of rendezvous, and intended headquarters) was surprised and taken, with nine pieces of brass cannon, two hundred and fifty stand of muskets, other arms and ammunition, with several superior officers, General Vallejo, (Val-ya-ho) his brother, Capt. Vallejo, Col. Greundon, and others; all of whom were detained and confined as prisoners. Captain Fremont then repaired to the American settlements on the Rio de los Americanos to obtain assistance; and receiving an express from his little garrison of fourteen, in Sonoma, that General Castro was preparing to cross the bay of San Francisco and attack them with a large force, he set out in the afternoon of the 23d of June, with ninety mounted riflemen, and travelling day and night, arrived, at two o'clock in the morning of the 25th, at Sonoma—eighty miles distance. The vanguard of Castro's force had crossed the bay—a squadron of seventy dragoons, commanded by de la Torre—which was attacked and defeated by twenty Americans, with the loss of two killed and some wounded on the part of the Mexicans and no injury to themselves—de la Torre barely escaping with the loss of his transport boats, and spiking six pieces of artillery. In the meantime two of Capt. Fremont's men, going as an express, were captured by de la Torre's men, and, being bound to trees, were cut to pieces alive with knives—in return for which, three of de la Torre's men being taken, were instantly shot. The north side of the bay of San Francisco was now cleared of the enemy, and on the fourth day of July Capt. Fremont called the Americans together at Sonoma, addressed them upon the dangers of their situation, and recommended a declaration of independence and war upon Castro and his troops, as the only means of safety. A few days afterwards an officer from Commodore Sloat brought intelligence that the American flag was hoisted at Monterey: an example which was immediately followed wherever the news flew. The pursuit and defeat of Castro was then the only remaining enterprise. He had fled south, towards the numerous Mexican towns and settlements beyond Monterey, with his four or five hundred men, and Capt. Fremont, leaving some fifty men in garrisons set out with one hundred and sixty mounted riflemen in the pursuit, when he received instructions from Commodore Sloat to march upon Monterey. He did so, and found Commodore Stockton in command approving the pursuit of Castro, and aiding him by all the means in his power.

**The Explosive Cotton.**  
Extracts from the Second Report of Professor Otto, Assessor of the Medical Board, Chemist, &c. &c.

It seems that no other acid than that procured by the distillation of ten parts of saltpetre, and six parts of oil of vitriol, will confer upon raw cotton its explosive power. Hydrate of nitric acid (saltpetre surephylated) dissolves the cotton. In good proper acid the cotton becomes transparent, and the fibre is not injured or dissolved. The acid by distillation first procured is best. Cotton dipped into it for half a minute, and then quickly passed between glass plates, or boards, and washed afterwards until it is entirely free from acid, and subsequently dried produces a superior exploding article. Using the acid a second time, an inferior article is made, but if after having been washed and dried, it is again dipped into the acid, it becomes excellent. A repetition of the manipulation necessarily augments the exploding quality. Cotton may even remain in the acid longer than half a minute. That which has laid in it as long as twelve hours was found to be very explosive. It is important that the cotton be well washed when it is taken out of the acid; for if any remain in it, a saltpetre flavour will attach to it when dry, and when exploding will leave on anything white an acid tincture. The vivid explosion of a small ball of the article, on a white china plate, is the criterion to test its good quality by. It must flash like gunpowder, and leave no dust behind it. If a particle even is seen, it cannot be used in guns. It also appears to be necessary that the cotton, after having been dipped into the acid and passed, be immediately put into a large quantity of water. If the cotton be put into an insufficient quantity of water, it (the cotton) gets heated; and small quantities of cotton are also preferable; for, if large, it forms into knots of a bluish-green color, which are so firm as not to be easily loosened. The more the prepared article resembles one in its natural state, the better and more powerful it is, with 5-4ths or 6-4ths of a grain—480 grains equal to an English ounce—balls of one-half inch diameter were driven through boards one inch thick, with six grains a bullet was driven from a rifle, at a distance of forty-five steps, into an oak plank, to the depth of an inch; and with four or five grains, effectual shots have been made with following pieces. The more readily the cotton explodes, the greater the care to be taken in handling it.

Professor Shoubein, at an experiment made in presence of one of the editors of the Times, tested some gun-cotton which had been immersed in water sixty days and found it as good as when perfectly fresh, after having been dried.

#### Important from Europe. Arrival of the Great Western.

TWELVE DAYS LATER.

The steamship Great Western sailed from Liverpool at four o'clock on the afternoon of the 31st ult., with over one hundred passengers in her cabins.

The intelligence is highly important, not only in a commercial, but in a political point of view.

The improvement in the price of cotton and the condition of the grain trade of Europe, however, affect us more than all the political convulsions of the world. It appears that England admits her dependence on these United States for bread.

The political aspect of Europe is somewhat threatening; the *entente cordiale* seems to be broken up for the present. In this disruption the United States are introduced by the political writers of Europe as a sort of balance power against England. Indeed it appears that every political convulsion in Europe is now produced by republicanism, and America is spoken of as one of the leading nations of the world.

The news of the capture of Monterey had reached England. Its effect was like that of a bomb shell thrown into the midst of Ampudia's troops in the Grand Plaza.

The condition of Ireland continued as deplorable as her worst enemies could wish. There had been more bread riots.

The import duty on wheat was 4s. per quarter, the lowest rate of duty under the present corn law.

The question of subsistence continues to attract serious attention in France, and has acquired increased interest in consequence of the devastations produced by the recent floods.

Affairs in Portugal are looking most serious. It is said that the Queen has sent to Spain for assistance; and there is a rumor that she has been deposed.

The very menacing aspect of affairs in Portugal has engaged a large portion of the attention of the press and the public of Paris. In every quarter the intelligence from Portugal was deemed alarming.

Accounts from Geneva state that the recent elections have terminated in favor of the liberals, which has caused great alarm to the Roman Catholics. Indeed their position in many parts of Switzerland is becoming very critical and serious outbreaks are apprehended by them. The cholera had passed the line of the Russian quarantine on the borders of the Caspian Sea, and was raging throughout all the Tartar villages of the districts of Salgau and of Leukern. A considerable number of Cossacks, forming the *cordon* on the Persian frontiers have likewise been attacked.

There had been terrible inundations in France.

**STEAM SHIP GREAT BRITAIN.**—We are given to understand that an agreement has been definitely concluded with the directors of the Western Steam Navigation Company to get off the Great Britain.

The gentleman whose plans have been approved of is named Mackintosh, and is an American, born of Scotch parents. He has distinguished himself by several ingenious inventions, and is the patentee of many of the applications of caoutchouc, or Indian rubber. The parties will proceed on Monday for Dundrum Bay to commence the preliminary operations.

The Liverpool Albion of this morning says: "Captain Hosken, of the Great Britain whose arrival in Liverpool we noticed last week, proceeded to Bristol on Tuesday; and had several interviews there with the directors. On Friday he returned to Liverpool, and, on Saturday night, left for Belfast, on his way to Dundrum Bay. He appeared much dejected in spirits during his stay here. We are happy to say that his wife, whose death was reported in Liverpool about a fortnight since, is in a state of convalescence."

**Important from the Gulf Squadron.**  
Second Attempt against Alvarado.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 8th ult. says: "We were so fortunate as to receive yesterday, by a pilot boat which touched at the Balize, advices from the squadron in the Gulf down to the 27th of October. The accounts are very interesting, but we regret to say, are not favorable to the success of our arms. On the 5th October a second attempt was made by Commodore Connor upon Alvarado. In consequence of the grounding of one of the vessels, which had three others in tow, the Commodore found himself most reluctantly compelled to abandon the enterprise. We cannot give an adequate representation of the disappointment of men and officers engaged in the affair. They suffered no loss, but from unavoidable accidents, from the force of circumstances, beyond their power to control, they could not get into action with the enemy at close quarters, as they desired.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, usually very well informed on such matters, writes under date of the 7th:

Some doubt has lately been expressed in the papers, whether General Taylor was ordered, peremptorily, in the communication made to him through Major Graham, to march on towards Saltillo, or not. But I learn, that the orders were positive and direct, to that effect. Of course, the General will obey those orders. He may march to Saltillo, with impunity. He may take and fortify Saltillo, and, through that means, he will command the communication between Northern and Southern Mexico. It may be that he is to halt there, and await the result of the negotiations for peace. What renders this probable is that the Government has called for no more troops. We know officially, through the letter of the Secretary of War, that no more troops will be called out.

I repeat what I have stated before that a few weeks ago, the Government did intend to call out a large force of volunteers, and chiefly from the south. But a change has come over them.

There will be no expensive movements—no energetic movements made before the meeting of Congress. The Mexican Congress may court a peace, and thus relieve our Government from the necessity of acting further in the matter; and, if not the whole responsibility of its further action will be thrown upon Congress.

I believe that the question of peace has been agitated—that the Government desires peace and intends to have it, at any price—and that its warlike energies are to rest until it can be found whether peace or war is the final determination of Mexico.

#### JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

Tuesday, December 1, 1846.

#### OUR TOWN.

It is gratifying to notice the improvement which this town has made during the last year or two. Three years ago business of all kinds was nearly at a stand—there was but little life or activity, in any of its departments. The place was still suffering under the revulsion of former years—lots changed hands but seldom, and then at low prices, and there was but little of a business appearance in the streets—in the stores, or in the shops of the mechanics.

But during the last two years, and particularly during the last year, the business of Joliet has greatly increased. Property has risen in value, and is sought for, and everything indicates that the town is progressing with a steady and healthful growth. There are now here, some twelve or fifteen stores, which taken together, are doing an excellent business; particularly those that advertise in this paper. The country about is fast settling with good farmers, and the time is not far distant, when Joliet will become a place of considerable importance, as regards trade and business. It already numbers over fifteen hundred inhabitants, and its population is continually on the increase. With a water power, the place will soon have its mills and factories, in addition to the excellent woollen factory which is already in operation. Three staunch bridges are being built across the canal and river, which will greatly accommodate the public, and have a tendency to accelerate the growth of the town.

There are many other useful improvements going on, and we believe that there are few places in Northern Illinois which offer greater inducements to the capitalists, than Joliet. Property is fast becoming valuable and will continue to rise, and the fertile country about is rapidly growing in wealth. All things considered we think the most sanguine calculations may be indulged in regard to the prospects of the place.

**NOT BANKRUPT YET.**—The loan of five millions of dollars, (says the National Intelligencer), advertised by the Secretary of the Treasury, has been all taken; and it is understood that the offers exceeded in amount the sum required.

The New York Courier says the loan was taken principally at par. Since the transaction was closed \$10,000 of the stock has been sold at 101, which price was freely offered for more. It is said that Government securities have advanced 2 per cent. This looks much like "repudiation" and "train."

Gov. Ford has appointed Thursday, Dec. 17th, a day of thanksgiving and praise. This is a time honored custom and should not be neglected. We hope it may be becomingly observed in obedience to the Governor's proclamation.

**CONNECTICUT.**—The Democrats of Connecticut in their State Convention have nominated Thomas T. Whittlesey, of Danbury, for Governor, and George S. Catlin, of Windham, for Lieutenant Governor.

It is stated that General Taylor expressed it as his opinion, that Monterey was the strongest position on the continent except Quebec.

**NEW YORK.**—The New York Correspondent of the Washington Union, says that Mr. Gardiner has been elected Lieutenant Governor of that State, over Fish, the Whig candidate, by a majority of from 12,000 to 13,000 votes. John Young's majority will not reach 10,000, so that it is apparent but for anti-rent Mr. Wright would have had his old majority (of '44) in spite of the bolters in his own party.

The majority in favor of the New Constitution, will be over seventy-five thousand. And the majority against negro suffrage will be upward of 200,000. Enough to settle that question, one would say.

This election should be a lesson to the Democratic party generally, and should teach them the disastrous consequences resulting from divisions among themselves. The people of New York are Democratic in principle and theory, and when the simple alternative of Democracy on the one hand, or Whiggery on the other, is presented to them, they undoubtedly will decide in favor of the former. Considering the divisions in our own party, and the many local causes which were brought to bear upon the issue by the Whigs we see nothing more in this result than might have been anticipated.

**MORE TROOPS.**—The Washington Union of Nov. 16th, states that requisition have been sent out from the War Department for more troops. A regiment is called for from each of the States of Mass. New York, Pa., Virginia, N. Carolina, S. Carolina, Louisiana, Miss. and Texas.

Baxter, one of the gang who were concerned in the murder of Colonel Deavenport, has been sentenced to be hung on the 9th inst.

It will be recollected that Baxter was tried and convicted at Rock Island last fall, but a new trial was granted, and a change of venue to Warren county, in the fifth judicial circuit. Judge Purple presided at the trial, which terminated on the 14th ult. It is said that when the sentence was pronounced, the prisoner stood unmoved, while all else present were deeply affected.

**FIRE IN SHIPPENSBURG.**—It is stated that a terrible disaster happened in the town of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, on the 25th of October. A fire broke out, which destroyed about 40 houses, leaving some ninety families without a shelter. During the fire, a quarrel originated among the firemen in which two persons were killed, and several wounded.

**MR. CLYMAN'S OREGON LETTER.**—We publish in to-day's paper a letter from Mr. James Clyman, in answer to some interrogatories in relation to Oregon and California. Mr. Clyman has lately returned from an expedition of two years to the above named countries, and is evidently dissatisfied with both. From a personal acquaintance with Mr. Clyman, we feel safe in recommending it to the notice of all who desire correct information respecting the regions beyond the mountains. He has always been highly regarded for his irreproachable character for truth and integrity, and therefore, his disclosures may be relied upon. Though we feel deeply interested in the settlement of Oregon—still we deem it our duty to present everything which may throw light on the subject, so that those who intend emigrating, may be informed of the hardships of the journey.

**RIGHT.**—The section below has been adopted by the New York Convention as part of the Constitution:

"All property of the wife, owned by her at the time of her marriage, and that acquired by her afterwards, by gift, devise, or descent, or otherwise than from her husband, shall be her separate property. Laws shall be passed providing for the registry of the wife's separate property, and more clearly defining the rights of the wife thereto, as well as to property held by her with her husband."

On Friday, last, Senator Matteson, in company with Senator Dougherty, of Union, who had been to Chicago, left this place for Springfield. Messrs. Miller and Little, Representatives from this county, left here yesterday for the same place. The Session commences on Monday next.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.**—An inquest was held last evening on the body of a man found lying in Fox River; about one and a half miles above this place. The deceased was stripped of every particle of clothing, and upon being examined was found to have two bullet holes in his head, and a slight gash across the throat, which left no doubt upon the minds of the jury that he had been murdered by some unknown person. He appeared to be a man about 30 years of age, 5 feet 9 inches high, light hair, thick set, with all of his upper teeth slightly projecting out. From the appearance of the deceased, he must have been in the water some length of time.—*Constitutionalist.*

#### FROM MONTEREY.

The New Orleans Delta, of the 14th, by an arrival from Galveston, compiles the following items:

Of the movements of Santa Anna, Ampudia, or the main body of the Mexican army, little—nothing positive—was known at the camp. It was only understood that they have evacuated Saltillo, and were concentrating, it was believed, their whole force at San Luis Potosi. Should nothing in the late despatches induce Gen. Taylor to alter his plan of operations, his determination was to march on to Llaneros, (120 miles from Monterey) en route to Tampico, and in a line north of San Luis Potosi. But thither he did not mean to move with a numerical force less than fifteen or twenty thousand men. The present active force from the mouth of the Rio Grande to end at Camargo, is estimated at 13,000 men—that in Monterey at 5,000; so that it would seem, after leaving the necessary men to garrison the depots and forts along the Rio Grande to Camargo, to occupy Mier, Saltillo and Pantaguida, of which our troops now hold military possession besides Monterey, and Saltillo, of which possession was about to be taken, that a considerable reinforcement would be necessary before in the opinion of General Taylor the first advance movement should be made. But be it understood, that an express arrived at Monterey, from Gen. Wool, on the 25th ult. stating that he was within six days march of Monclova, and had with him fifty days provisions. From this, his position, it was believed that he was on his way to join Gen. Taylor at Monterey, and had not touched at Chihuahua. His force could not much exceed 3,500 men.

Notwithstanding the predetermination of Gen. Taylor not to move from Monterey without the strong reinforcement spoken of above, our informant thinks that Gen. Wool's command, and such other force as he may draw off from the present military stations, he may on hearing that Santa Anna is at San Luis Potosi, dash on there and give him a fight without regard to disparity of numbers in the opposing parties, so great is his confidence in his troops.

**DEATH OF CAPT. RIDGELY.**—On the 25th ult. as Capt. Ridgely was riding into town, his horse slipped on the smooth pavement, and he was thrown with such violence against a rock as to cause a severe fracture of the skull. He lay senseless when Maj. Dashiell left, on the following day, and no hope of his recovery was entertained by the surgeons.

From the American Flag of Nov. 4.  
**FROM MONTEREY.** We have advices from this post as late as the 25th ult. To the politeness of a friend we are indebted for a few items of news. The health of the troops is said to be rather bad at this time, the principal complaints being diarrhoea and chills and fever. It is supposed that the fruit, so readily obtained there, increased the sickness.

A gentleman recently returned from Monterey, who had a good opportunity of forming a correct opinion of the future movements of Gen. Taylor, expresses it as his belief that, after garrisoning Saltillo, the main body of the army will take up the line of march for Tampico, where it will be reinforced preparatory to making a descent upon San Luis Potosi, which is generally supposed will be the next battle scene.

It seems to be an ascertained fact in Gen. Taylor's camp, (Mexican rumors to this city to the contrary notwithstanding,) that Saltillo is not to be defended—the whole Mexican force being concentrated at San Luis Potosi, which place is being fortified in the strongest possible manner.

Gen. Wool had reported himself to Gen. Taylor, as within a short distance of Monclova, and we are informed that a part of his force is to form a junction with Gen. Taylor at Monterey, the remainder moving on to Chihuahua—the whole force being deemed unnecessary for this service.

**LATER.**—The Picayune of the 14th gives the following extract of a letter, which is latest from Monterey, dated Oct. 29:

Poor Ridgely is dead. He was buried yesterday, and is mourned by the entire army. Maj. Lear will not live twenty-four hours longer. We have late news from San Luis Potosi, to the effect that Santa Anna was there with 12,000 men and no less than thirty-seven generals! He was recruiting daily, but his intentions were not known. It is rumored that Bustamante has gone north in the direction of Chihuahua, to meet Gen. Wool, and farther, it is positively asserted that the Indians are killing and laying waste all before them in the latter State.

The news from Camargo and Matamoros is of little importance.

**JEFFERSON'S TEN RULES OF LIFE.**—I Never put off till to-morrow what should be done to day.

2. Never trouble others to do what you can do yourself.

3. Never spend your money before you have it.

4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap.

5. Pride costs more than hunger, thirst and cold.

6. We never repent eating too little.

7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.

8. How much pains those evils costs which never happened.

9. Take things always by their smooth handle.

10. When angry always count ten before you speak.

**HON. ROBERT C. OWEN.**—The Denworth (Va.) Banner states that the President has appointed Robert C. Owen, Representative to Congress from that State, minister to Brazil, in the place of Henry A. Wise, of Virginia.

#### Important from the Squadron.

Second Attempt upon Alvarado.—Expedition against Tobasco.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 8th ult. says: "We were so fortunate as to receive yesterday, by a pilot boat which touched at the Balize, advices from the squadron in the Gulf down to the 27th of October. The accounts are very interesting, but we regret to say, are not favorable to the success of our arms. On the 15th October a second attempt was made by Com. Connor upon Alvarado. In consequence of the grounding of one of the vessels, which had three others in tow, the Commodore found himself most reluctantly compelled to abandon the enterprise. We cannot give an adequate representation of the disappointment of men and officers engaged in the affair. They suffered no loss, but from unavoidable accidents, from the force of circumstances beyond their power to control, they could not get into action with the enemy at close quarters, as they desired."

The gallant old Commodore was the most chagrined of all. He took the command of the expedition in person, upon the steamer Vixen. His vessel succeeded getting across the bar and reaching the desired position, where she stood the brunt of the fire of the Mexican battery of twelve guns, till the McLane got aground and it would have been fool-hardiness to persist in the enterprise. Com. Connor stood all the while upon the wheel house of the Vixen, calm and unruffled, while the shot flew around him. Perfectly unruffled, he would not expose to useless hazard his command, after it became evident that from accident the enterprise must fail. His officers and men however were rendered half-frenzied by the order to withdraw. There was nothing so rash and desperate that they would not have performed it rather than have obeyed the summons to desist.

From the Baltimore Sun, of the 19th ult.

**Arrival of The Acadia.**  
Four Days Later.

**PRICE OF FLOUR, CORN, COTTON, &c.**  
The steamer Acadia arrived at Boston yesterday morning, at half past 9 o'clock, having sailed from Liverpool on the 4th inst., and making the passage from shore to shore in the brief space of twelve days and eighteen hours.

The Acadia having left Liverpool only four days behind the Great Western, she brings but little later news, and her political news is of but slight interest.

Our correspondent at Boston having received the news by the Great Western, by telegraph, previous to the arrival of the Acadia, has sent us only the variations in the prices of the market quotations, which are as follows:

**FLOUR AND GRAIN.**—American flour in bond, 33s. per bbl; free flour 34s. to 34s. 6d. per bbl; corn, (duty paid) 55s. per 480 lbs.

**COTTON.**—Ordinary Orleans and Mobile, 5d. to 5 5/8d; do. fair 6 1/4d. to 6 3/8d., do. good, from 6 3/4d. to 7 1/4d.

From the above it will be seen that there has been no material change in the price of either cotton or flour during the time intervening between the departure from Liverpool of the steamers Great Western and Acadia.

**Gen. Taylor and the Government.**  
The Washington Union of the 10th ult. says:

"The Galveston News undertakes to show what points Gen. Taylor is about to march, and what troops he will have with him. Is the 'News' sure that his orders are so peremptory—and that Gen. Taylor being upon the spot—upon the immediate theatre of action—with the full knowledge of his locations and his resources, and the objects within his reach, is not permitted, in some degree, to consult his own discretion?"

Again the same paper, of the 11th, remarks:

"The press continues to speculate upon the plans of the campaign. It items with rumors about the movements of different corps of the army. Now, it peremptorily sends Gen. Taylor forward to Saltillo, under 'positive and direct orders from the Secretary of War,' which are said to have been carried out by Major Graham. Another part of the communicative press insists upon it that Gen. Wool after taking Chihuahua, will join General Taylor, and then they will march together to San Luis Potosi. In truth the gossiping press appears to know more about the campaign than the managers themselves behind the curtain."

Then comes another batch of rumor, viz: that the war is to flag until the Congress of the 6th December meets at Mexico. We are to have no more alarms, the whole scheme of "vigorous prosecution of the war is to be exchanged for a period of inactivity, amounting, in fact to an armistice. Anon, another of the federal heralds starts up, cries danger to be hovering over General Taylor's corps, and calls out in the name of the families of the soldiers, who are now at Monterey, for more reinforcements. But, meanwhile Gen. Taylor himself has called for no more volunteers to be drawn from the several States; and with the accession of those whom he is said to have sent for from the banks of the Rio Grande, he will have 9,000 picked men with him, and leaving, too, several thousand effective men at the posts on the river.

We would most respectfully advise a little more caution to be practised by the ingenious men who contribute to the press in laying down plans of the campaign and of the marching of troops. These ingenious speculations may, after all, turn out to be mere visions of the imagination.

**ARKANSAS.**—The Legislature of this State, on the 9th of Oct., elected Mr. Ashley United States Senator, by a majority of fourteen in the House of Representatives, and seven in the Senate.